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**Environment Department to Hold Meeting to Update Public on Ozone  
Progress in San Juan County**

(Santa Fe, NM) – In order to update the public on progress achieved under the Early Action Compact for ozone in San Juan County, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will host a Public Meeting on **Wednesday, January 14 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Farmington Civic Center, Exhibit Hall 3, located at 200 West Arrington in Farmington.**

The Early Action Compact is an agreement that allows governments in San Juan County and NMED's Air Quality Bureau to work together on a proactive study of the formation of ozone, a harmful air pollutant that has been shown to lead to asthma, especially in children. The goal of this compact is determining what measures, if any, would have significant effects in maintaining and/or lowering the high ozone levels found in San Juan County.

Since 2002, after several consecutive years of monitoring levels of ozone in San Juan County that approach the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, NMED has held public meetings in San Juan County to inform citizens about ozone air pollution and discuss the health and economic impacts of exceeding the ozone standard. The ozone NAAQS is a federal health-based standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

NMED has been working through a contract with Alpine Geophysics, LLC, and ENVIRON International Corporation to have the companies perform photochemical air quality modeling and analysis to identify causes and potential strategies to reduce elevated ground-level ozone in San Juan County. A representative from Alpine Geophysics will be at the January 14 meeting to present results of the modeling.

San Juan County, the Cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, NMED and the EPA signed the Early Action Compact in December 2002.

For more information, please contact Mary Uhl, Manager of the Air Quality Bureau's Planning and Policy Section, at (505) 955-8086 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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